

1 Tyler J. Woods (State Bar No. 232464)  
twoods@trialnewport.com  
2 Tu-Quyen Pham (State Bar No. 260864)  
tpham@trialnewport.com  
3 **NEWPORT TRIAL GROUP**  
A Professional Corporation  
4 4100 Newport Place, Suite 800  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
5 Tel: (949) 706-6464  
Fax: (949) 706-6469  
6

7 **HIDEN, ROTT & OERTLE, LLP**  
A Limited Liability Partnership  
Including Professional Corporations  
8 **ERIC M. OVERHOLT, ESQ.** (C.S.B. 248762)  
eoverholt@hrollp.com  
9 2635 Camino del Rio South, Suite 306  
San Diego, California 92108  
10 Telephone: (619) 296-5884  
Facsimile: (619) 296-5171  
11

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

12  
13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
14 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
15

16 **THERMOLIFE INTERNATIONAL, LLC**  
17 **Plaintiff,**  
18 **vs.**  
19 **SUNDOWN NATURALS,**  
20 **Defendant.**  
21  
22

Case No. '13CV2444 AJB NLS

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT  
INFRINGEMENT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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1 Plaintiff Thermolife International, LLC (“Plaintiff”) hereby alleges for its  
2 Complaint against Sundown Naturals (“Defendant”), on personal knowledge as to  
3 its own activities and on information and belief as to the activities of others, as  
4 follows:

5 **I. THE PARTIES**

6 1. Plaintiff is a limited liability company organized and existing under  
7 the laws of Arizona, with a place of business at 1811 Ocean Front Walk in Venice,  
8 California, 90291.

9 2. Plaintiff is and was at all relevant times the exclusive licensee of  
10 United States Patent No. 6,117,872, titled “Enhancement of Exercise Performance  
11 by Augmenting Endogenous Nitric Oxide Production or Activity,” referred to  
12 herein as the “patent in suit.”

13 3. The above patent is and was owned by The Board of Trustees of the  
14 Leland Stanford Junior University (“Stanford University”) and Plaintiff exclusively  
15 licenses and licensed at all relevant times the patent from Stanford University.

16 4. Plaintiff has been given the right by Stanford University to institute  
17 suit with respect to infringements of the patent in suit, including this suit against  
18 Defendant.

19 5. Defendant is an entity organized and existing under the laws of New  
20 York with a principal place of business at 110 Orville Drive in Bohemia, New  
21 York, 11716.

22 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 6. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws  
24 of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. Accordingly, this Court has  
25 subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, and 1367.

26 7. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and  
27 1400.

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1           8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. By way of  
2 example and without limitation, Defendant, directly or through intermediaries  
3 (including distributors, retailers, and others), makes, manufactures, ships,  
4 distributes, advertises, markets, offers for sale, and/or sells dietary supplement  
5 products that infringe on one or more claims of the patent in suit (hereinafter the  
6 “accused products”), which include without limitation products sold under the “L-  
7 Arginine 500 mg” brand name, in the United States, the State of California, and the  
8 Southern District of California.

9           9. By way of further example and without limitation, Defendant has  
10 purposefully and voluntarily placed the accused products into the stream of  
11 commerce with the expectation that they will be purchased in the Southern District  
12 of California, and the products are actually purchased in the Southern District of  
13 California.

### 14                                   **III. THE DEFENDANT’S INFRINGEMENTS**

15           10. Defendant has committed the tort of patent infringement within the  
16 State of California, and more particularly, within the Southern District of  
17 California, by virtue of the fact that Defendant has formulated, made,  
18 manufactured, shipped, distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and/or sold the  
19 accused products in this District, and continues to do so.

#### 20                                   **A. DIRECT INFRINGEMENTS**

21           11. Defendant’s employees, agents, representatives and other persons  
22 sponsored by or who endorse Defendant and Defendant’s products in advertising  
23 and marketing activities, have taken, used, and orally administered the accused  
24 products.

25           12. The accused products are formulated, made, manufactured, shipped,  
26 distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and sold by Defendant to include certain  
27 ingredients that, by virtue of their inclusion in the products, infringe one or more  
28 claims of one or more of the patent in suit.

1 13. The accused products are formulated, made, manufactured, shipped,  
 2 distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and sold by Defendant to include specific  
 3 ingredients for certain purposes that, by virtue of their inclusion in the products for  
 4 such purposes, infringe one or more claims of the patent in suit, and as a result,  
 5 when Defendant's employees, agents, representatives and other persons sponsored  
 6 by or who endorse Defendant and Defendant's products in advertising and  
 7 marketing activities orally administer the accused products, they are practicing and  
 8 they practiced the methods disclosed in those claims.

9 14. The purposes for which these ingredients are included in the accused  
 10 products are and were, without limitation, to enhance nitric oxide production, to  
 11 improve nitric oxide activity, to produce nitric oxide, to boost nitric oxide levels in  
 12 the body, and to enhance physical performance.

13 15. Defendant encouraged and/or is aware of the fact that its employees,  
 14 agents, representatives and other persons sponsored by Defendant or who endorse  
 15 Defendant and Defendant's products in advertising and marketing activities orally  
 16 administered and administer the accused products and practice and practiced the  
 17 methods disclosed in one or more claims of the patent in suit, and these employees,  
 18 agents, representatives and other persons sponsored by Defendant or who endorse  
 19 Defendant and Defendant's products in advertising and marketing activities are and  
 20 were acting under Defendant's direction and control when practicing those  
 21 methods.

22 16. Therefore, Defendant is and was a direct infringer of one or more  
 23 claims of the patent in suit, and Defendant practices and practiced the methods as  
 24 set forth in one or more claims of the patent in suit.

25 **B. INDIRECT INFRINGEMENTS**

26 17. End-users of Defendant's accused products were and are also direct  
 27 infringers of one or more claims of the patent in suit.

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1 18. End-users of Defendant's accused products have taken, used, and  
2 orally administered the accused products.

3 19. The accused products are and were formulated, made, manufactured,  
4 shipped, distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and/or sold by Defendant to  
5 include certain ingredients that, by virtue of their inclusion in the products, infringe  
6 and infringed one or more claims of the patent in suit.

7 20. The accused products are and were formulated, made, manufactured,  
8 shipped, distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and/or sold by Defendant to  
9 include specific ingredients for certain purposes that, because of their inclusion in  
10 the products for such purposes, infringe and infringed one or more claims of the  
11 patent in suit, and as a result, when end-users of Defendant's accused products  
12 orally administer and administered the accused products, they are and were  
13 practicing the methods disclosed in those claims.

14 21. Defendant's labels and advertising for the accused products explain  
15 and explained the elements and essential elements of one or more of the methods  
16 disclosed in the patent in suit, and those labels and advertising statements  
17 encourage, urge, and induce the accused products' end-users, and did so in the past,  
18 to purchase and orally ingest the products to practice those methods, and end-users  
19 do and did practice those methods.

20 22. Defendant has therefore specifically intended to cause these end-users  
21 to directly infringe the claimed methods of this patent, and in fact urged them to do  
22 so.

23 23. The accused products are and were not suitable for non-infringing  
24 uses, and none of Defendant's labels or advertisements for the accused products  
25 disclose or disclosed any uses for the products, nor for the compounds disclosed in  
26 the claimed methods of the patent in suit, that do not infringe upon such methods.

27 24. The inclusion of the specific infringing compounds in the products is  
28 and was material to practicing such methods.

1           25. Defendant has and had knowledge that the accused products are and  
2 were especially adapted by end-users of the products for the practicing of such  
3 methods, and, indeed, Defendant encourages, urges, and induces the accused  
4 products' end-users to purchase and orally administer the accused products to  
5 practice such methods, and has done so in the past.

6           26. Defendant intentionally and knowingly induced, encouraged, and  
7 urged end-users of the accused products to purchase and orally administer the  
8 accused products for the purposes of practicing the claimed methods, by having  
9 them orally ingest the compounds disclosed in such claims.

10           27. Defendant has and had knowledge of the fact that the accused  
11 products, particularly as administered, infringe on one or more claims of the patent  
12 in suit.

13           28. Defendant has and had direct, firsthand knowledge of the patent in  
14 suit.

15           29. For example and without limitation, Plaintiff believes Defendant has  
16 had knowledge of the patent in suit since November 2006, when an ongoing  
17 settlement of a patent infringement case relating to the patent suit and other related  
18 patents against Herbalife, a well-known company in Defendant's industry, was  
19 announced in press releases issued in a highly publicized manner. Plaintiff believes  
20 Defendant's employees, agents, and representatives saw the press releases and were  
21 aware of the settlement and thus the patent in suit.

22           30. By way of further example and without limitation, Defendant sold its  
23 products through retailers, including online retailers, and those retailers have sold  
24 other companies' products whose labels and/or advertisements have been  
25 prominently marked with the patent in suit and/or related patents, by patent number,  
26 including without limitation, upon information and belief, the products  
27 manufactured and sold by Herbalife, Daily Wellness, and Vitality Research Labs.  
28 Defendant's employees, agents, and representatives have seen these labels and

1 advertisements and, thus, Defendant has and had direct knowledge of the patent in  
2 suit.

3 31. By way of further example and without limitation, Defendant received  
4 written notice of the patent in suit from Plaintiff in April 2013.

5 32. Defendant brazenly and willfully decided to infringe the patent in suit  
6 despite knowledge of the patent's existence and its knowledge of the accused  
7 products' infringements of the patent.

8 33. At a minimum, and in the alternative, Plaintiff pleads that Defendant  
9 willfully blinded itself to the infringing nature of the accused products' sales.

10 34. Defendant did not cease its own direct infringement, nor its  
11 contributory infringement or inducement of infringement by end-users, despite its  
12 knowledge of the patent in suit and the end-users' infringing activities with respect  
13 to the patent in suit.

#### 14 **IV. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### 15 **Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,872**

16 35. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations of the foregoing  
17 paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

18 36. Defendant has in the past and still is literally and directly infringing or  
19 directly infringing under the doctrine of equivalents one or more claims of United  
20 States Patent No. 6,117,872 by making, using, selling, and offering for sale the  
21 accused products, or any one of those products, and will continue to do so unless  
22 enjoined by this Court.

23 37. In addition to the fact that Defendant makes, uses, sells, and offers for  
24 sale the accused products, further examples of Defendant's direct infringements  
25 include, without limitation, the fact that Defendant has encouraged and/or is aware  
26 of the fact that its employees, agents, representatives and other persons sponsored  
27 by or who endorse Defendant and Defendant's products in advertising and  
28 marketing activities orally administer the accused products and practice the

1 methods disclosed in one or more claims of United States Patent No. 6,117,872,  
2 and these employees, agents, representatives and other persons sponsored by or  
3 who endorse Defendant and Defendant's products in advertising and marketing  
4 activities are acting under Defendant's direction and control when practicing those  
5 methods.

6 38. Defendant has encouraged and is aware of these persons' oral  
7 administration of the accused products for these purposes, these persons are acting  
8 under Defendant's direction and control, and therefore Defendant is directly  
9 practicing the methods disclosed in United States Patent No. 6,117,872.

10 39. End-users of Defendant's accused products are also direct infringers of  
11 one or more claims of United States Patent No. 6,117,872.

12 40. End-users of Defendant's accused products have taken, used, and  
13 orally administered the accused products.

14 41. The accused products are formulated, made, manufactured, shipped,  
15 distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and sold by Defendant to include certain  
16 ingredients that, by virtue of their inclusion in the products, infringe one or more  
17 claims of United States Patent No. 6,117,872.

18 42. The accused products is formulated, made, manufactured, shipped,  
19 distributed, advertised, offered for sale, and sold by Defendant to include specific  
20 ingredients for purposes that, by their inclusion in the products for such purposes,  
21 infringe one or more claims of United States Patent No. 6,117,872, and as a result,  
22 when end-users of Defendant's accused products orally administer the accused  
23 products, they are practicing the methods disclosed in one or more claims of that  
24 patent.

25 43. Defendant's labels and advertising for the accused products explain the  
26 elements and essential elements of the methods disclosed in United States Patent  
27 No. 6,117,872, and those labels and advertising statements encourage, urge, and  
28



1 induce the accused products' end-users to purchase and orally ingest the products to  
2 practice those methods, and end-users do practice those methods.

3 44. Defendant has therefore specifically intended to cause these end-users  
4 to directly infringe the claimed methods of United States Patent No. 6,117,872, and  
5 has in fact urged them to do so.

6 45. The accused products are not suitable for non-infringing uses, and  
7 none of Defendant's labels or advertisements for the accused products disclose any  
8 uses for the products, nor for the compounds disclosed in the claimed methods, that  
9 do not infringe upon such methods.

10 46. The inclusion of these specific infringing compounds in the products is  
11 material to practicing such methods.

12 47. Defendant has knowledge that the accused products are especially  
13 adapted by end-users of the products for the practicing of such methods, and,  
14 indeed, Defendant encourages, urges, and induces the accused products' end-users  
15 to purchase and orally administer the accused products to practice such methods,  
16 and have done so in the past.

17 48. Defendant has intentionally and knowingly induced, encouraged, and  
18 urged end-users of the accused products to purchase and orally administer the  
19 accused products for the purposes disclosed in one or more claims of United States  
20 Patent No. 6,117,872, by having them orally ingest the compounds disclosed in  
21 such claims.

22 49. Defendant has knowledge of the fact that the accused products,  
23 particularly as administered, infringe on one or more claims of United States Patent  
24 No. 6,117,872.

25 50. Defendant also has direct, firsthand knowledge of United States Patent  
26 No. 6,117,872.

27 51. Defendant's activities have been without express or implied license by  
28 Plaintiff.

1 52. As a result of Defendant's acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered  
2 and will continue to suffer damages in an amount to be proved at trial.

3 53. As a result of Defendant's acts of infringement, Plaintiff has been and  
4 will continue to be irreparably harmed by Defendant's infringements, which will  
5 continue unless Defendant is enjoined by this Court.

6 54. Defendant's past infringements and/or continuing infringements have  
7 been deliberate and willful, and this case is therefore an exceptional case, which  
8 warrants an award of treble damages and attorneys' fees in accordance with 35  
9 U.S.C. § 285.

#### 10 **V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for entry of judgment against Defendant as  
12 follows:

13 1. A declaration that Defendant has infringed the patent in suit, under 35  
14 U.S.C. §§ 271 *et seq.*;

15 2. That injunctions, preliminary and permanent, be issued by this Court  
16 restraining Defendant, its officers, agents, servants, directors, and employees, and  
17 all persons in active concert or participation with each, from directly or indirectly  
18 infringing, or inducing or contributing to the infringement by others of, the patent  
19 in suit;

20  
21 3. That Defendant be required to provide to Plaintiff an accounting of all  
22 gains, profits, and advantages derived by Defendant's infringement of the patent in  
23 suit, and that Plaintiff be awarded damages adequate to compensate Plaintiff for the  
24 wrongful infringing acts by Defendant, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284;

25 4. That the damages awarded to Plaintiff with regard to the patent in suit  
26 be increased up to three times, in view of Defendant's willful infringement, in  
27 accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284;

28 5. That this case be declared to be exceptional in favor of Plaintiff under

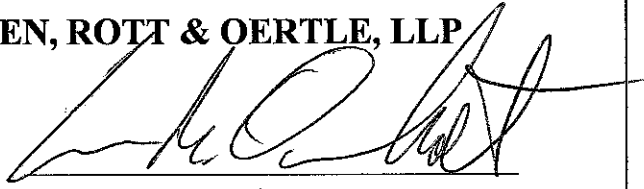
- 1 35 U.S.C. § 285, and that Plaintiff be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees and
- 2 other expenses incurred in connection with this action;
- 3 6. That Plaintiff be awarded its interest and costs of suit incurred in this
- 4 action;
- 5 7. Compensatory damages;
- 6 8. Punitive damages; and
- 7 9. That Plaintiff be awarded such other and further relief as this Court
- 8 may deem just and proper.

9 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

10 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiff hereby demands a  
11 jury trial for all issues in this case that properly are subject to a jury trial.

12  
13 DATED: October 9, 2013

HIDEN, ROTT & OERTLE, LLP

By: 

Eric M. Overholt, Esq.  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*